

Comments from:

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I write to provide Comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. The E-Rate has been of great importance to the school divisions in my region because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, to communicate and collaborate, and to develop the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my region's current bandwidth needs. I urge you to consider raising the E-rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years.

As an Instructional Technology Coordinator in Southwestern VA, I know that seamlessly infusing digital learning throughout the school curriculum is a pre-requisite for students to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's global economy. Access to high speed broadband is the key for modern teaching and learning to occur in all schools across the country.

I work in schools throughout the region and see teacher who are beginning to use digital learning to personalize learning and empower students to gain the skills they need to be successful. I have teachers who are implementing online collaboration with schools from other parts of the world, using mobile devices to take learning beyond the walls of the classroom, and so many more.

Many school networks in the region are barely able to meet current demand, and the need for a high speed reliable network is only going to increase in the near future as we continue to work in schools training teachers to help students reach the knowledge that is out on the World Wide Web. In a time of unprecedented learning possibilities and with the Virginia Dept. of Education's guideline that all student take some sort of online course, where you live should never determine your prospects in life or where you could go.

The E-rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing Internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle applications from schools and libraries totaled more than \$5 billion, more than double the available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.